



State of Utah

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DWS News Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: September 2005

Utah's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for September registered 4.6 percent, down 0.6 percentage points from the unemployment rate of 5.2 percent registered a year ago in September 2004. Approximately 57,600 Utahns were unemployed in September 2005 as compared to 62,300 in September 2004. August's unemployment rate remains unrevised at 4.4 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the year-over change in the number of nonfarm wage and salaried jobs, registered 3.6 percent. This is a continuation of growth rates that have hovered in the mid 3-percent range for the past four months. August's growth rate is unrevised and remains at 3.6 percent.

Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services commented, "September's numbers still show a strong economy in Utah. We are in a good economic position. Growth rates have leveled off over the past four months, but there is still plenty of economic activity to keep Utah as one of the best performing states in the nation. I do anticipate that the growth rate will slow some as we finish out this year. Increased costs for goods and services, all impacted by higher fuel prices, will be the moderating cause. But even with a slower growth rate, Utah will continue to stand as one of the nation's better-performing economies."

Since September 2004, the United States economy has added 2.2 million new jobs — a growth rate of 1.7 percent. Over that same period, Utah's economy added approximately 39,900 new jobs, a growth rate of 3.6 percent. The Utah additions represent about 1.8 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year. The United States' unemployment rate moved slightly upward to 5.1 percent.

Once again, all industries in Utah are growing. Two industries stand out and lead all others with year-over job gains of over 8,000 new jobs each. They are construction and professional and business services. These two industries account for 43 percent of all new jobs created in Utah over the past year.

Construction is now the sector adding the most new jobs — 8,900 since last September. This is a growth rate of over 10 percent and signals a vibrant building environment in Utah. Construction employment makes up 7.5 percent of all employment in Utah.

Construction has supplanted the professional and business services sector with the most job gains. New housing construction is the foundation of construction growth in Utah, and housing growth generally performs at consistent levels, even during slow economic periods. Commercial activity, on the other hand, is more prone to cyclical ups and downs, and it often determines the height and depth of the overall cyclical flow that characterizes construction. Currently, there are plenty of commercial projects active in Utah and also a sizeable number of announced or anticipated projects ahead to keep the Utah construction scene quite vibrant across the next two years.

The professional and business services sector remains an active and expanding segment of Utah's economy. Making up nearly 13 percent of all employment in Utah, this sector has grown by over 6 percent across the past year. Since September 2004, this is an addition of 8,400 new jobs. On the high-paying professional side, 3,500 new jobs have developed over the past year. These can be identified with legal services, accounting and bookkeeping, engineering, drafting services, graphic design, computer systems and design, and scientific research and development. The expansion of these jobs is a positive for Utah, not only because of their high pay, but also because these jobs were an unfortunate part of the jobs lost during the early 2000s recession.

There are jobs in this sector that generally don't pay as much, particularly in the employment services industry, which provides either employment outsourcing services or temporary or placement employment. Jobs of this nature have grown by 3,300 over the past year. Utah has a young working-age population, and this avenue of job placement and workplace flexibility serves the characteristics of this group.

Trade, transportation, and utilities is the largest employment sector in Utah, accounting for 19 percent of all employment. This sector grew by 2.4 percent, or 5,400 positions, over the past year. Retail trade makes up 60 percent of all jobs in this sector. It added 2,100 new jobs. Retail trade is an industry that is very responsive to population growth. Continual population gains in Utah are the driving factor for this industry's steady growth rate over the long haul.

Transportation and warehousing make up nearly 20 percent of this sector. It added 1,800 new jobs over the past year, with strong gains coming in air transportation, and also the addition of new warehouses and distribution centers.

Education and health services continues to be a job creator in Utah. Approximately 4,500 new jobs developed in this area over the past year. Educational services added around 800 of these, with the remainder and bulk of the new positions coming in health services.

Utah's October employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2005.

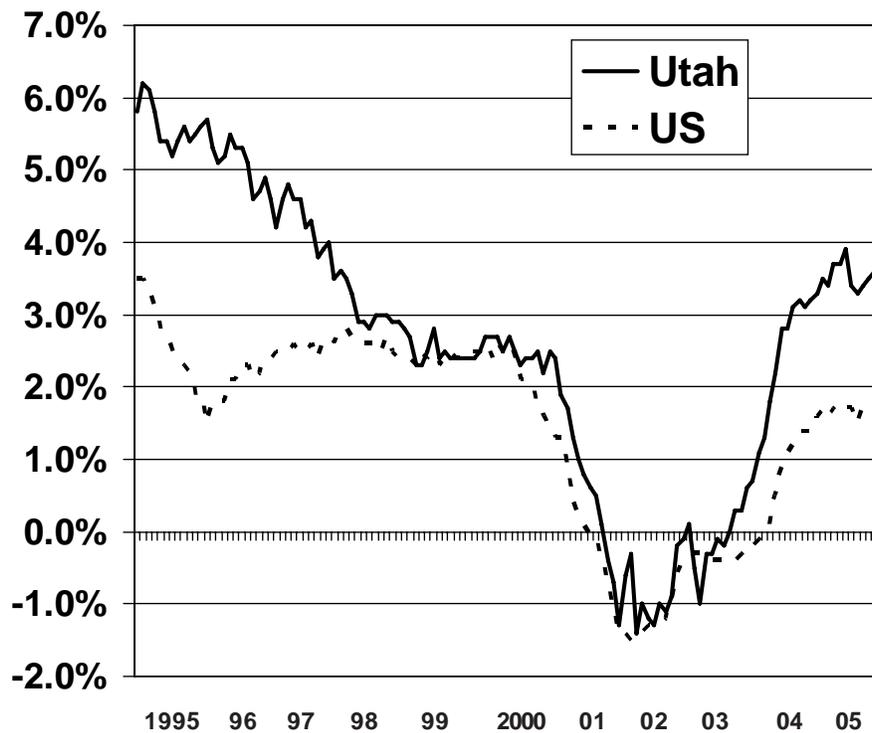
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Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

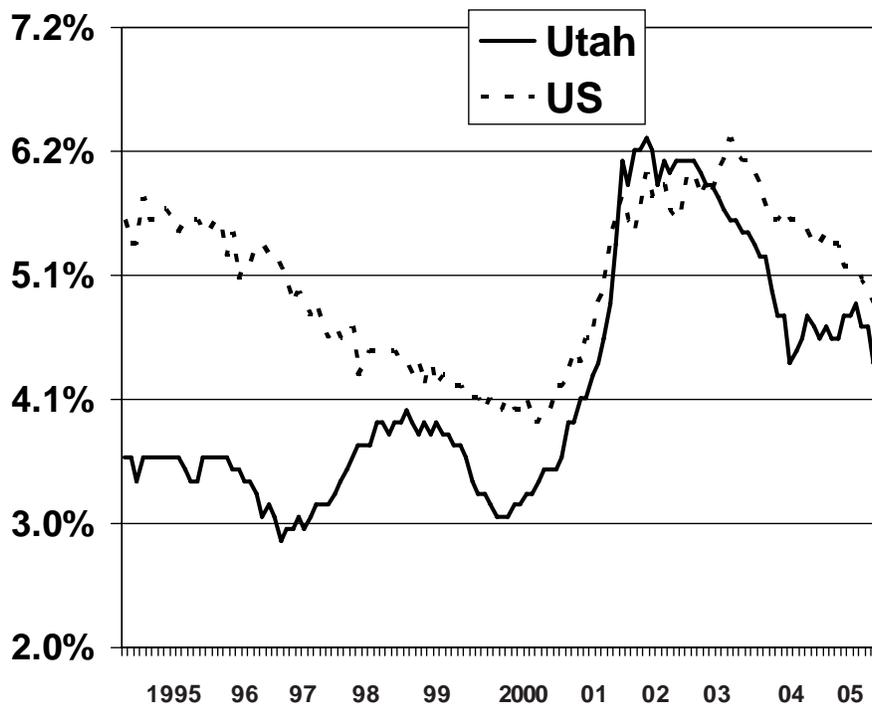
Numbers are in thousands and are <u>not seasonally adjusted.</u>	September(f) 2005	September 2004	Percentage Change	August(r) 2005	August 2004	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,245.7	1,207.6	3.2	1,253.1	1,212.6	3.3
Employed	1,190.7	1,148.8	3.6	1,195.8	1,148.3	4.1
Unemployed	55.0	58.8	-6.5	57.3	64.3	-10.9
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.9		4.6	5.3	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,157.1	1,117.2	3.6	1,143.0	1,103.4	3.6
GOODS PRODUCING	213.0	200.8	6.1	212.5	200.9	5.8
Natural Resources, and Mining	8.2	7.4	11.1	7.9	7.3	7.9
Construction	86.5	77.6	11.4	86.4	77.8	11.1
Construction of Buildings	18.4	17.0	8.7	18.7	17.1	9.1
Heavy and Civil Engineering	9.4	8.6	9.4	9.5	8.7	
Specialty Trade Contractors	58.6	52.0	12.6	58.3	52.0	12.1
Manufacturing	118.3	115.8	2.2	118.2	115.8	2.0
Durable Goods	78.5	76.5	2.7	78.4	76.4	2.6
Primary and Fabricated Metals	15.2	14.6	4.4	15.3	14.6	4.9
Computer and Electronic Products	11.0	10.9	1.0	11.0	10.9	0.8
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.3	13.9	2.8	14.2	13.8	3.0
Non-Durable Goods	39.8	39.3	1.4	39.8	39.4	1.0
Food Manufacturing	13.4	13.8	-3.0	13.5	14.0	-3.5
Printing and Related Support Activities	7.2	6.9	3.9	7.2	6.9	4.2
SERVICES PROVIDING	944.1	916.4	3.0	930.4	902.5	3.1
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	225.2	219.8	2.4	225.5	219.9	2.6
Wholesale Trade	42.7	41.4	3.2	42.7	41.3	3.3
Retail Trade	135.6	133.5	1.6	135.7	133.6	1.6
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	17.2	16.7	2.7	17.2	16.8	2.2
Food and Beverage Stores	22.3	22.4	-0.7	22.4	22.6	-0.8
General Merchandise Stores	26.4	26.9	-2.1	26.5	26.5	0.1
Transportation and Utilities	46.8	45.0	4.1	47.1	45.0	4.8
Utilities	3.9	3.8	1.2	3.9	3.9	1.2
Transportation & Warehousing	43.0	41.2	4.4	43.2	41.1	5.1
Air Transportation	6.7	5.9	14.0	6.8	5.9	15.1
Truck Transportation	17.7	17.7	-0.1	17.6	17.7	-0.2
Information	31.6	30.0	5.4	31.1	30.2	3.1
Publishing Industries	8.8	8.5	3.0	8.7	8.5	1.6
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.4	4.4	0.4	4.5	4.4	2.6
Telecommunications	5.9	5.7	3.3	5.9	5.7	3.3
Internet Service Providers	8.2	6.9	18.5	8.1	7.0	16.2
Financial Activities	67.0	65.2	2.7	66.9	65.1	2.8
Finance and Insurance	50.7	49.7	2.1	50.7	49.6	2.1
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	16.3	15.5	4.8	16.2	15.5	4.9
Professional and Business Services	147.2	138.8	6.1	149.2	140.2	6.4
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54.7	51.2	6.9	54.5	51.0	6.9
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	10.7	10.1	6.8	10.9	10.2	6.7
Computer Systems Design and Related	11.4	10.9	4.1	11.4	10.8	4.9
Management of Companies and Enterprises	20.9	20.9	0.0	20.9	20.9	-0.2
Administration & Support & Waste Management & Remediation	71.7	66.8	7.4	73.8	68.4	8.0
Employment Services	23.6	20.7	14.1	24.1	21.1	14.3
Business Support Services	16.3	15.9	2.2	16.5	16.4	1.0
Education and Health Services	129.7	125.2	3.6	125.3	120.8	3.7
Educational Services	29.0	28.2	2.8	25.2	24.0	4.7
Health Services and Social Assistance	100.7	97.0	3.8	100.2	96.8	3.5
Ambulatory Health Care Services	38.5	36.6	5.2	38.2	36.4	4.9
Hospitals	29.4	28.5	3.2	29.2	28.3	3.1
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	18.7	18.1	3.3	18.7	18.2	2.8
Social Assistance	14.1	13.8	2.3	14.1	13.9	1.5
Leisure and Hospitality	106.2	104.0	2.1	107.9	105.0	2.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	16.2	15.4	5.2	17.2	16.1	6.9
Accommodation and Food Services	89.9	88.6	1.6	90.6	88.9	1.9
Accommodation	17.1	16.8	2.0	17.7	17.2	2.5
Food Services and Drinking Places	72.8	71.8	1.5	73.0	71.7	1.8
Other Services	33.7	33.1	1.8	34.5	34.0	1.6
Government	203.5	200.3	1.6	190.0	187.2	1.5
Federal Government	35.1	34.9	0.6	35.1	35.0	0.4
Federal Defense	16.3	16.0	2.4	16.3	15.9	2.4
Other Federal Government	18.7	18.9	-0.8	18.8	19.0	-1.3
State Government	64.0	62.1	3.1	60.3	58.6	3.0
State Schools	35.3	34.5	2.2	31.7	31.1	2.2
Other State Government	28.7	27.6	4.2	28.6	27.5	3.9
Local Government	104.4	103.4	1.0	94.5	93.7	0.9
Local Education	59.7	58.6	1.9	49.5	48.5	1.9
Other Local Government	44.7	44.8	-0.3	45.1	45.1	-0.1

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised October 18, 2005

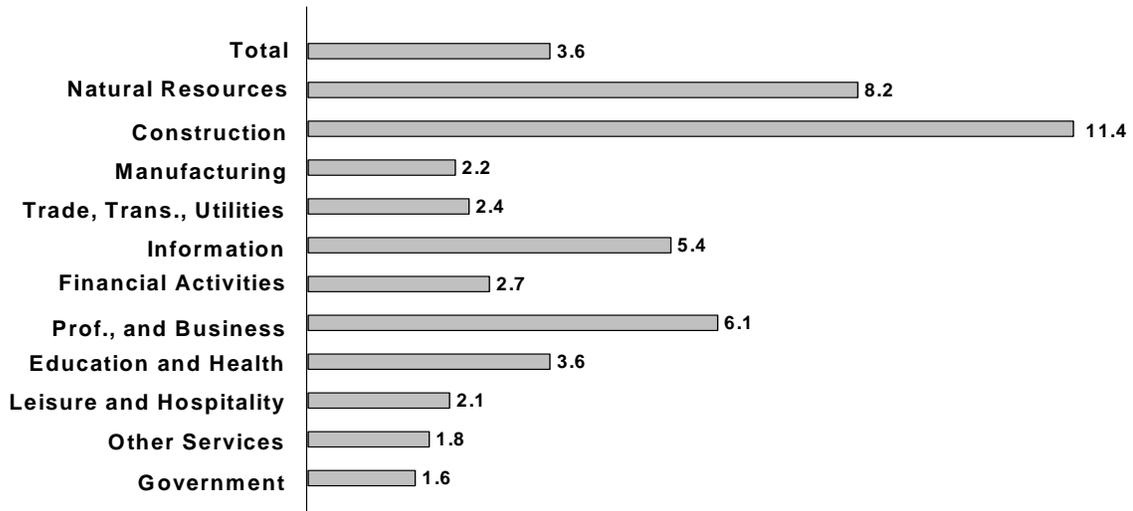
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

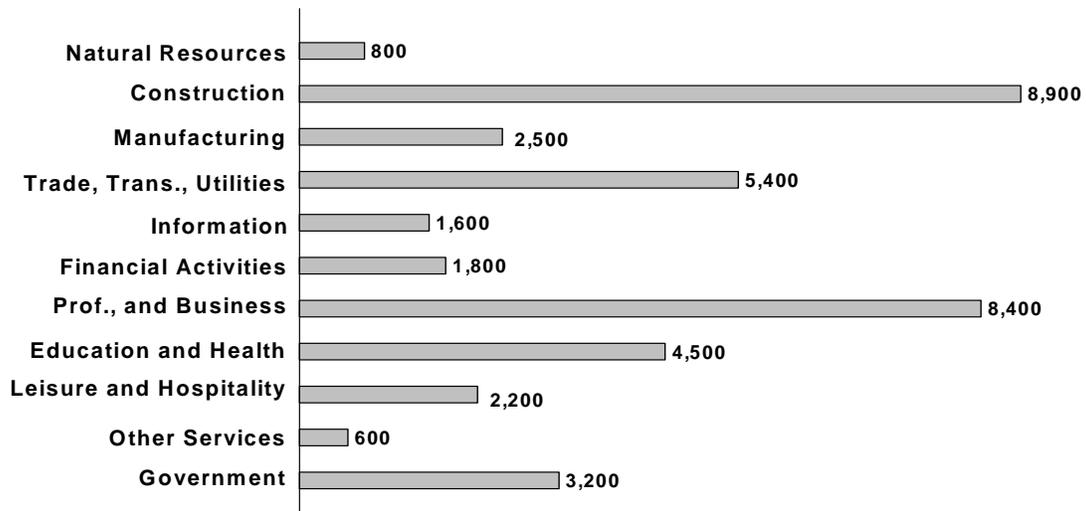


Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) September 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Numeric Change) September 2004 – 2005



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	September 2005(f)	September 2004	Percent Change	August 2005(r)	July 2005(r)
State Total	1,157,076	1,117,141	3.6	1,142,958	1,135,685
Bear River	67,734	65,712	3.1	65,803	64,897
Box Elder	19,239	18,413	4.5	19,346	19,347
Cache	47,760	46,511	2.7	45,600	44,700
Rich	735	788	-6.8	858	850
Wasatch Front	760,528	737,151	3.2	758,239	754,674
North	191,384	185,429	3.2	190,756	191,177
Davis	97,686	94,321	3.6	97,418	98,557
Morgan	1,891	1,952	-3.1	1,901	1,906
Weber	91,807	89,156	3.0	91,437	90,714
South	569,143	551,722	3.2	567,483	563,497
Salt Lake	554,895	538,967	3.0	553,273	549,214
Tooele	14,248	12,755	11.7	14,210	14,284
Mountainland	194,139	185,520	4.6	187,972	185,381
Summit	17,937	16,548	8.4	18,211	18,027
Utah	169,985	163,301	4.1	163,969	161,614
Wasatch	6,217	5,671	9.6	5,792	5,739
Central	23,321	23,085	1.0	22,499	22,849
Juab	3,247	2,901	11.9	3,271	3,300
Millard	3,829	3,846	-0.4	3,689	3,963
Piute	318	330	-3.6	321	311
Sanpete	7,170	7,118	0.7	6,431	6,444
Sevier	7,659	7,778	-1.5	7,654	7,691
Wayne	1,098	1,112	-1.3	1,134	1,140
Southwestern	71,194	67,154	6.0	68,610	68,061
Beaver	1,882	1,913	-1.6	1,929	1,949
Garfield	2,612	2,587	1.0	2,658	2,655
Iron	15,813	15,289	3.4	14,358	14,326
Kane	3,164	3,201	-1.2	3,215	3,188
Washington	47,723	44,164	8.1	46,450	45,942
Uintah Basin	18,453	17,386	6.1	18,102	18,106
Daggett	505	517	-2.3	533	543
Duchesne	5,779	5,500	5.1	5,880	5,852
Uintah	12,169	11,369	7.0	11,689	11,711
Southeastern	21,708	21,133	2.7	21,732	21,717
Carbon	8,928	8,699	2.6	8,750	8,603
Emery	3,879	3,836	1.1	3,899	3,979
Grand	4,716	4,542	3.8	4,819	4,896
San Juan	4,185	4,056	3.2	4,264	4,239

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 10/18/05